



SHINING THE LIGHT ON DEPRESSION

Federal Communications Commission

Chairman Genachowski

445 12th Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

P. 443.552.0743

F. 443-782-0739

Tax ID. 20-1427003

[www.depression.org](http://www.depression.org)

[info@ifred.org](mailto:info@ifred.org)

Dear Mr. Chairman,

It has been brought to my attention that you are considering returning 1-800-SUICIDE back to the competent hands of Reese Butler and the Kristin Brooks Hope Center. I'm so very thankful and appreciate you are considering this action, and would like to strongly advocate for this action as soon as possible. I have known Reese Butler for over six years and have had the pleasure of working with him on the Annual KBHC Capitol Hill Suicide Prevention Conferences, the Take Action and Pick Up the Phone Tours, and other critical, necessary projects.

As you consider the transfer, I would strongly encourage you to consider the following:

- Government funding is in flux constantly, and mental health projects are being cut across the board. What will happen to the over one million that are currently calling this hotline should federal funding be eliminated?
- It is important that both the private and public sector be involved in suicide prevention and awareness, and the government currently has a program / phone number that it is promoting for suicide intervention.

I've worked with the NIH, NIMH, MHA, NAMI, HDRF, University of Michigan Depression Centers, WFMH, ASCP, along with several others, and do not know anyone more qualified, capable, and committed to maintaining this number and serving the people that call it. The logistics alone for running this extraordinary lifeline are considerably complex, and Reese Butler and KBHC have it down to a science. They are also capitalizing on their network of centers, and utilizing it to serve other important communities including veterans, women, and teens.

I'm so very thankful to hear that you are considering transferring it back, and do hope that it happens soon so that Reese and his team can focus on the important work of saving lives. The government does an amazing job with the resources it has, but unfortunately those resources fluctuate so it is always good to have private networks as well. Please do not hesitate to call me on my cell should you have any questions or want to discuss further.

Thanks much,

Kathryn Goetzke, MBA

Founder, iFred [www.depression.org](http://www.depression.org)

International Foundation for Research  
and Education on Depression

P.O. Box 17598

Baltimore, MD

21297-1598